

*Carmel, NY* – U.S. Representative John Hall joined with experts from AARP for a telephone town hall meeting today on what the new Health Care Reform law will mean to New Yorkers in Congressional District 19. The tele-town hall is part of AARP's effort to educate its members on the benefits of the new law and answer questions on what health care reform means to them.

"I was delighted to speak on the phone today with more than 6,000 of my constituents during the tele-town hall to tell them about the benefits of this law, which helps fulfill a promise that I made when I first ran for office," said Rep. Hall. "This legislation, which I was proud to vote for, will make us a healthier people and a stronger nation. I'm grateful to AARP for providing this important opportunity to get the truth out about this landmark legislation."

Congressman Hall answered a wide range of questions about the new health care bill, with calls coming in from all five of the counties that he represents. The invitation to participate in the AARP event went out to more than 25,000 residents of the New York's 19th Congressional District.

"Health Care Insurance Reform contains many advantages for New Yorkers over age 50, including strengthening Medicare through the protection of guaranteed benefits, closing the prescription coverage gap known as the doughnut hole, and ensuring access to doctors," stated Lois Aronstein, AARP NY State Director. "Health Care Reform also provides new programs that will help people receive long-term care services at home so that they can remain living independently in their communities as they age."

Other benefits people age 50+ will see under the new Health Care Reform package include:

- Lower out-of-pocket prescription drug costs for Medicare beneficiaries.
- Expanded Medicare coverage for wellness and preventive care.
- Affordable Health Insurance Coverage for the uninsured.
- Coverage for pre-existing conditions.
- Enhanced options for affordable long-term care in the community.
- Lower re-hospitalization rates for Medicare enrollees.

Although many changes under the new health care law will be phased in over the next several years, some benefits will be seen immediately. For the latest information on the new Health Care Reform law, visit [www.johnhall.house.gov](http://www.johnhall.house.gov) -30-